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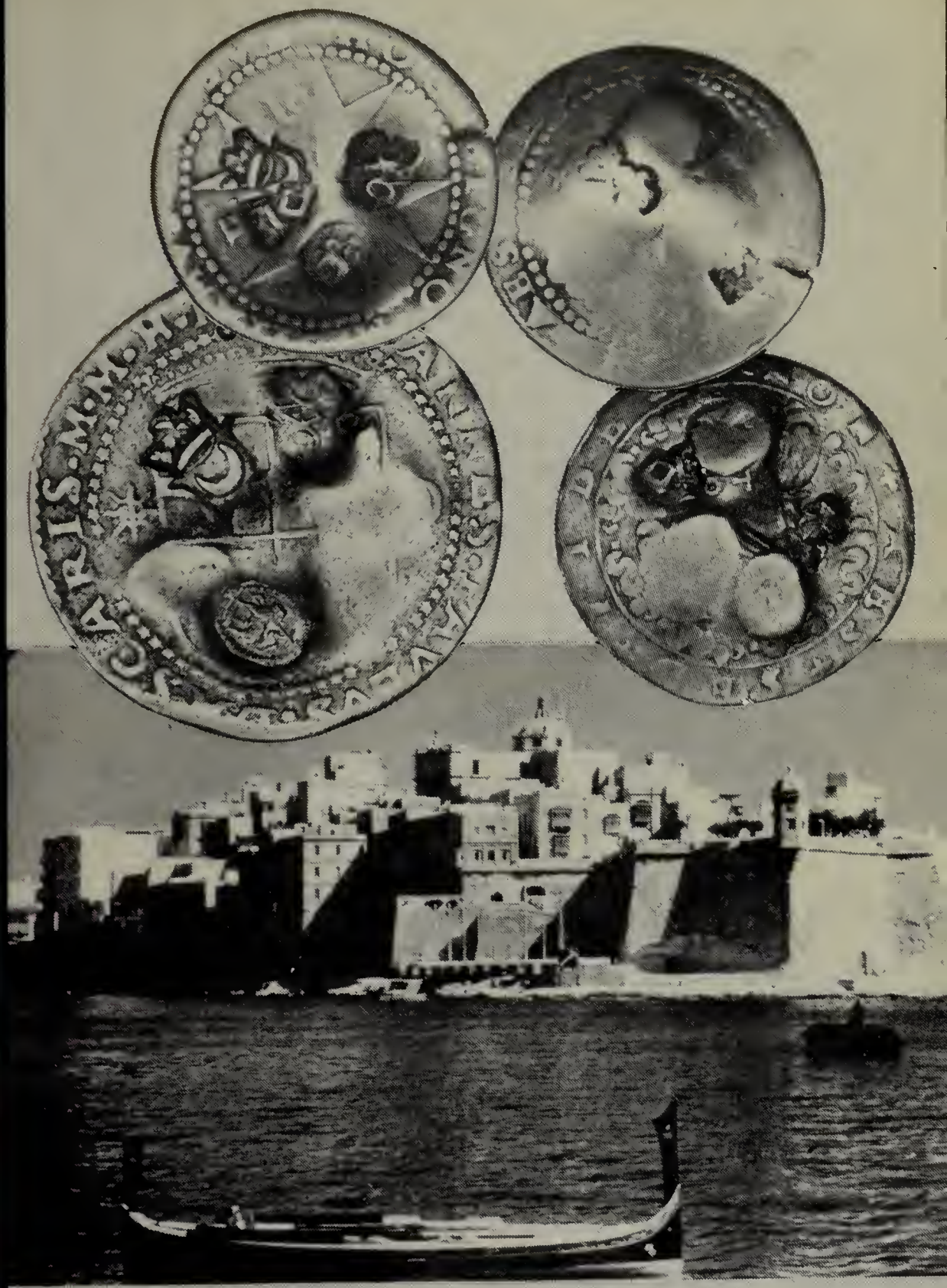

Volume 21, Number 3
January, 1974

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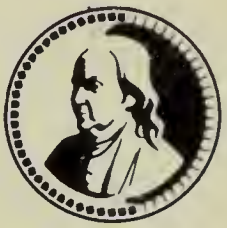

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the centinel

Official Publication/Central States Numismatic Society

Vol. 21, No. 3 January, 1974

Death Takes Tim Shroyer, Former ANA, CSNS President

C. C. (Tim) Shroyer, past president of the American Numismatic Association from 1961 to 1963, died Nov. 23 after an extended illness. A resident of Toledo, Ohio, Mr. Shroyer, 79, was a veteran coin collector.

He joined the ANA in 1934 with membership number 4446 and in 1948 became the association's 211th life member. A coin dealer in recent years, Mr. Shroyer held bourse tables at major shows across the country and specialized in U. S. commemoratives.

His election as ANA district secretary in 1948 marked the start of a long tenure in the group's officialdom. He served as a member of the Board of Governors from 1951 to 1959 and first vice president from 1959 to 1961 before his election to the presidency.

A founder and past secretary of the Professional Numismatists Guild, Mr. Shroyer was its first life member. He served as president of the Central States Numismatic Society from 1954 to 1956, was a past president of the Ohio Numismatic Society and an organizer and member of many other coin clubs.

C. C. Shroyer

Mr. Shroyer was honored often for his contributions to coin collecting. He received the CSNS Medal of Merit in 1968 and was awarded the ANA Medal of Merit in 1959.

Born Sept. 28, 1891, C. C. Shroyer is survived by his wife, Myrtle, and two brothers.

Funeral services were held on Tuesday, Nov. 27.

About the Cover

Malta's Fort St. Angelo, built by the Arabs in A.D. 807, serves as a backdrop for a pair of countermarked Maltese coins. Read Clem Bailey's "Countermarks of the Knights of Malta," on page 11.

PRESIDENTIAL COMMENTARY

As the New Year of 1974 begins, I would like to wish each and every member of CSNS the happiest of New Years, and may Central States continue to grow throughout the coming year.

Let's all pledge our support to our officers and go all out in the support of Central States. I am sure we are all looking forward to the 1974 convention in Detroit, Michigan, where Dan Parker is assembling a great conclave.

This is an election year, and I beg of all members to vote for the members who will guide Central States through the coming two years.

We have added five new Governors to the Board during the last year, and I am sure that with hard work we will continue until all spaces are filled. We still need Governors representing the states of Kentucky, South Dakota, and Nebraska, and several states are represented by only one Governor. How about some of the members from these states sending in a name or two so that we can get full representation from all the states in our Central States territory. Let's ALL get behind this project and do our part.

As I look back over the past three years and see the progress Central States has made, the future looks very promising.

Our new Secretary-Treasurer is rapidly rounding into form, but he, too, needs your help with membership dues, changes of address, and new members. Let's all do our part for Oliver as he has a big job on his hands and needs the backing of each and every member to help him do the job he wants to do.

David L. Cooper

I would recommend that you all start making plans for the 1974 Detroit convention to be held in the Hilton Hotel in Detroit, May 9 - 12, 1974. Contact Daniel C. Parker, 657 Mullett St., Detroit, Mich. 48226 for any help you may need toward planning your visit to the Motor City.

I'll be looking forward to seeing you in Detroit.

—DAVID L. COOPER,
President

A MESSAGE FROM THE SECRETARY

With the Holidays out of the way — and I hope that they were joyous ones for all — it is now time for us to focus our attentions to our coming annual convention to be held May 9 - 12. The

Oliver W. Horton

Professional Numismatic Guild will be having their day and starting things off on May 9.

At this time, every one should start making some preliminary plans towards being in attendance at the Detroit convention. I am starting you out properly by enclosing a hotel reservation card for your convenience in getting your room reservations made early.

This past late summer and fall, we have been running a little late on distribution of **The Centinel,** dues notices, etc., but we are taking steps to alleviate the problems and circumstances as they occur and this will continue until I can have **The Centinel** in the prescribed time and have it mailed and into your homes at the prescribed time that you should be receiving it.

One thing that is giving me quite a problem: the mails are getting lousy on third class deliveries. Nine days to St. Louis, a week to Peoria (only eight miles away), etc. Add to this the fact that I receive so many **Centinels** back that can not be delivered. Wrong addresses! Yet I know that they are correctly addressed.

As expressed in the last issue, many of you do move and do not notify me of such moves. Please drop me a card when ever you change your address, even when you "move" to a warmer climate for the winter months. This will guarantee receipt of your **Centinel** each and every issue.

All dealers and exhibitors planning to participate in the Detroit convention must be members of the Central States and be in good standing as of that date. There are many who are being dropped from our records for non-payment of 1973 dues. It is not too early for those of you, who wish to participate in the Detroit convention, to pay your 1974 dues to the secretary.

Please note that elsewhere in this issue are names and last known addresses of members for whom the Post Office claims to have no forwarding addresses. I need your help. If you know of any of these members and have their current addresses, please forward them to me. For the good of the Society, it will be greatly

appreciated.

A little note to dealers with regards to convention bourse tables, and to exhibitors, as well: All inquiries should be addressed to the convention committee and NOT to me! A secretary's work is never done; there is always something hanging fire. I can only forward your letters on to where they should have been to start with. (I can not get any dealer a bourse table!)

The up-coming General Convention Chairman's name and address are in every issue of **The Centinel,** and all inquiries should be addressed to him. He will gladly assist you.

Detroit is going to be a touchy situation for you dealers. In Milwaukee there were 130 dealers, in Peoria there were 99 dealers, but in Detroit there will be only 75-80 dealers. Some one is going to be left out. So if you are a new dealer and a new applicant to Central States, it is going to be difficult for you to obtain a bourse table even in the future. Tables are assigned to dealers who have been previously patronizing CSNS conventions. (Records are passed on and usually reflect a period of two to three years.) But should you not receive a table for 1974, do not give up nor become disillusioned with us: for 1975, Kansas City should be able to handle around 125 bourse tables very easily. In fact, all scheduled conventions already awarded should be able to pretty well handle dealer demands quite readily.

As you will note, quite a group of new member applicants are listed in this issue. We are striving to make new membership gains, and this is where you can help. How about signing up one new member into the Society? We all know of collector friends who do not belong. Let's do them (and the Society) a favor by asking them to join CSNS.

—OLIVER W. HORTON,
Secretary-Treasurer

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATIONS

The persons named below have applied for membership in the Society. Each applicant will become a member in 30 days, unless a written objection to his or her application is received by the Secretary-Treasurer prior to that date.

New Members Since The October, 1973, Issue of THE CENTINEL

2482	Stan Baibak	Detroit, Mich.
2483	Don Fisher	Decatur, Ill.
2484	Charles W. Forney, Jr.	Peoria, Ill.
2485	Freeman Craig	San Francisco, Calif.
2486	Velda E. St. Louis	Kankakee, Ill.
2487	Frank W. St. Louis	Kankakee, Ill.
2488-J	Andy Johnson	Joliet, Ill.
2489	Joseph A. Janose	Kansas City, Mo.
2490	Joe Ziegler, Jr.	Kansas City, Mo.
2491	A. C. Hoernan	Kansas City, Mo.
2492	Ernest F. Lush	Lathrup Village, Mich.
2493	Howard Wunderlich	Ronkonkoma, N. Y.
2494	Jack H. Beymer	Santa Rosa, Calif.
2495	Gordon K. Gleitz	Greenville, S. C.
2496	Dean H. Petersen	Sioux City, Iowa
2497	Gregory J. Clark	Warren, Mich.
2498	John G. Benedetti	Raytown, Mo.

2499	L. F. Denton	Kansas City, Mo.
2500	G. H. Payne	Kansas City, Mo.
2501	B. A. Grayson	Hutchinson, Kansas
2502	Irving Klein	Albuquerque, N. M.
2503	Robert Karler	Albuquerque, N. M.
2504	David L. Lawrence	Omaha, Nebr.
2505	Thomas W. McCarbrey	Lansing, Kansas
2506	Mark G. Moyer	Boulder, Colo.
2507	Don Tilton	Topeka, Kansas
2508	Michael Dennis Abbott	Omaha, Nebr.
2509	Gilbert Bledsoe	Kansas City, Mo.
2510	Russell H. Thatcher	Lincoln, Nebr.
2511	Thomas L. Ruben	Omaha, Nebr.
2512	Earl Johnson	Kansas City, Mo.
2513	John R. Lolden, Jr.	Emporia, Kansas
2514	Fritz Voecks	Kimberly, Wis.

LIFE MEMBERSHIPS — Converted from Regular Membership

LM 118	James M. Caldwell	Rhinelander, Wis.
LM 119	Helen I. Bernauer	Detroit, Mich.

OFFICIAL NOMINATION REPORT

For President
(Nomination Accepted)

Daniel C. Parker ..... Detroit, Michigan

For First Vice-President
(Nomination Accepted)

Sol Kaplan ..... Cincinnati, Ohio

For Second Vice-President
(Nomination Accepted)

Harold H. Berk ..... Warren, Ohio

For Secretary-Treasurer
(Nomination Accepted)

Oliver W. Horton ..... Washington, Illinois

For Board of Governors
(Thirteen to be elected with no state being represented by more than two Governors)
(Nominations Accepted)

A. P. (Del) Bertschy	Wisconsin	Kurt R. Krueger	Wisconsin
John H. Cain	Missouri	Ray O. Lefman	Missouri
Kenneth J. Ferguson, Jr.	Ohio	Lowell L. Owen	Iowa
Ralph D. Hardman, Jr.	Kansas	Allen L. Schrock	Nebraska
Orlane D. Kittle	Minnesota	Ben Stocker	Michigan
		Don Squire	Michigan

BIOGRAPHIES OF NOMINEES

FOR PRESIDENT — Daniel C. Parker — Michigan. A veteran of 25 years of numismatic and organizational experience, Dan Parker is a charter member of the Michigan State Numismatic Society, who during his term as President (1967-70) probably spread the numismatic "word" to more coin clubs than any other regional executive. In a one-year period, he personally visited 37 Michigan clubs. In addition to MSNS, he has been an active supporter of the Detroit Coin Club which he served as President in 1967, and as Secretary-Treasury in 1960-63 and again from 1970 until the present time. Parker has served as General Chairman of all Detroit-sponsored conventions since 1963, eight State Conventions and one CSNS conclave. As an ANA member, he has been on the Young Numismatists Committee since his appointment in 1968, and presently serves as a Director of the YN Correspondence Course. An exhibitor with no little experience, he is an accredited ANA exhibits judge. In recent years, though still actively interested in collecting, his primary interest in the hobby has turned to writing, for which he has been awarded the CSNS's Elston G. Bradfield literary award and the Carl D. Roethke award for outstanding writing in the **Mich-matist** for three consecutive years. As President-elect of SCNS, Parker hopes to continue stressing the participation of young numismatists in both ANA and SCNS programs.

FOR FIRST VICE PRESIDENT — Sol Kaplan — Ohio. A Life Member of CSNS and ANA, Kaplan has served on the CSNS Board of Governors for seven terms. A professional numismatic dealer for 34 years, he was instrumental in the founding of the Professional Numismatists Guild which he has served as President and as Executive Vice President. During the late 1960s he served as instructor of numismatics at Xavier University in Cincinnati. Kaplan was awarded the CSNS Medal of Merit in 1962.

FOR SECOND VICE PRESIDENT — Harold H. Berk — Ohio. A collector for 48 years and a professional dealer since 1953, Berk organized the Warren (Ohio) Coin Club in 1955 and helped it grow until in 1962 it had a paid membership of more than 2500. He has served six years as an ANA Board Member and on numerous ANA committees. A Life Member of ANA and CSNS, Honorary Life Member #1 of the Warren club, and Life Member #1 of the Penn-Ohio Coin Club, Berk is currently serving on the CSNS Board of Governors and continues to take an active part in more numismatic, civic and fraternal organizations than space permits to list.

FOR SECRETARY-TREASURER — Oliver W. Horton — Illinois. A Life Member of SCNS, the Tazewell Numismatic Society and the Illinois Numismatic Association, Horton has served two years as IllNA State President, plus other State offices. In 1967 he was the CSNS Convention Bourse Chairman, and General Convention Chairman in 1973. He has served as the CSNS Second Vice President and repeatedly on the CSNS Board of Governors. The recipient of the 1973 CSNS Medal of Merit, Horton is currently serving the Society as Secretary-Treasurer following the resignation of the late Dr. F. Stevens Epps.

FOR BOARD OF GOVERNORS:

A. P. (Del) Bertschy — Wisconsin. Life Member of CSNS and Past President and Honorary Life Member of the Milwaukee Numismatic Society, Bertschy holds memberships in the ANA, Numismatists of Wisconsin, and a Charter Membership in the Society of Paper Money Collectors. With many years experience as General Chairman of MNS annual conventions, he has served on the CSNS convention committee in 1941, as CSNS General Chairman in 1951, CSNS Medals and Exhibit Chairman in 1962, CSNS General Co-Chairman in 1972, and will again serve as CSNS Convention General Chairman for the 1977 CSNS conclave in Milwaukee. Bertschy was awarded the CSNS Medal of Merit in 1972, and presently is on the Society's Board of Governors.

John H. Cain — Missouri. Appointed by President Johnson to serve on the 1968 Assay Commission, Cain has been a collector since high school days. A member of the ANA, and of the Heart of American Numismatic Association since the early 1950s, he served five years as HANA's Secretary and as President in 1968 and 1969. A Co-Chairman of the 1959 Kansas City CSNS Convention, Cain is presently a member of the CSNS Board of Governors by appointment.

Kenneth J. Ferguson, Jr. — Ohio. The President of Western Reserve Numismatic Club (1971-73), Ferguson holds Life Memberships in the ANA (1013), CSNS (116), and Michigan State Numismatic Society (47). He has been active in Penn-Ohio numismatics and CSNS affairs, presently serving as a member of the Board of Governors to which he was appointed in 1971 and subsequently elected in 1972.

Ralph D. Hardman, Jr. — Kansas. Presently completing his sixth year as a member of the CSNS Board of Governors, Hardman holds Life Memberships in CSNS, ANA and Heart of America Numismatic Association. Active in all Kansas City organizations, he has served continuously as Bourse or Exhibit Chairman for the past 12 HANA shows, as HANA President, and as CSNS Exhibit Chairman in 1964.

Miss Orlane D. Kittle — Minnesota. A full time coin dealer for the past 15 years, Miss Kittle holds memberships in ANA CNA, MOON, NOW and numerous local clubs, including the Winona Coin Club of which she is a Charter Member, Past President and Past Vice President. She has served her local club as Show Chairman for more than a dozen of its annual coin shows since 1959. For several terms a Governor of the Minnesota Organization of Numismatists (MOON), Miss Kittle is presently serving on the CSNS Board of Governors by appointment in 1973.

Kurt R. Krueger — Wisconsin. Active in young numismatist programs on all levels, Krueger won the distinction of being named the ANA Outstanding Young Numismatist in 1971. He has served as the ANA Young Numismatist representative for Wisconsin, on the ANA National Young Numismatist committee and as YNCC administrator, and currently serves as Secretary of the Numismatists of Wisconsin (1971-74), as President of the Milwaukee Numismatic Society, and as Convention Chairman for the 1974 State Conclave. From 1971 through 1973 he edited the "Oconomowoc Numismatic

News" and was the show chairman for the Cooney Numismatists. His writings have appeared in **Numismatic News Weekly** and the **Young Numismatist.** Krueger, appointed to serve on the CSNS Board of Governors in 1973, holds memberships in TAMS, TEC, MEC, MSNS, MOON, NOW, MNS, a Life Membership in ANA, plus numerous other numismatic organizations.

Ray O. Lefman — Missouri. Appointed to the 1964 Assay Commission, Lefman is a Life Member of CSNS, ANA, and Life Member #1 of the Heart of America Numismatic Association. He has served CSNS continuously for the past 16 years either as President or as a member of the Board of Governors. In 1963 he was awarded the CSNS Medal of Merit. A graduate of Missouri State Teachers College, Lefman teaches in the Kansas City school system. The chairman of numerous numismatic conventions, he was recently named to head the 1975 CSNS Convention to be held in Kansas City.

Lowell L. Owen — Iowa. A collector with 40 years experience and a researcher of Iowa National Bank notes, Iowa Obsolete Bank notes and other related items, Owen is President of the Des Moines Coin Club and is Chairman of the Iowa State Numismatic Show, a post he has repeatedly filled numerous times for various numismatic organizations. Active in seven clubs within a 60-mile radius, he is known to many as an enthusiastic exhibitor (with more than 100 best-of-show and first place awards to his credit). Called on as a speaker by many numismatic, civic and fraternal groups, Owen presently is on the Board of Governors of the Iowa State Numismatic Association, and the CSNS Board to which he was appointed in 1973.

Allen L. Schrock — Nebraska. Specializing in Scandinavian coinage, Schrock recently authored an article, "Token Coinage of Charles XII," published in **Coins Magazine,** and serves as a contributor for the Krause-Mishler **Standard Catalog of World Coins.** An active exhibitor at various state numismatic conventions (as well as at CSNS and ANA conventions), he has served the Omaha Coin Club as President and as Secretary, and currently is First Vice President of the Nebraska Numismatic Association and General Show Chairman for the 1974 State convention. Schrock heads his own mail-order coin company doing business in the U. S. and nineteen foreign countries. He holds memberships in the ANA, CSNS, OIN and Numismatics International.

Ben Stocker — Michigan. With 20 years of continuous CSNS membership to his credit, Stocker has an enviable record of accomplishments: President, Detroit Coin Club, 1960-62; President, Michigan State Numismatic Society, 1961; President, Grosse Pointe Numismatic Society, 1968; President, CSNS, 1968-70; Bourse Chairman, ANA-CNA Detroit convention, 1968; General Co-Chairman, CSNS Detroit convention, 1968. In 1966 he was awarded the CSNS Medal of Merit. He presently serves on the CSNS Board of Governors.

Don Squire — Michigan. A present member of the CSNS Board of Governors and a Life Member of ANA, Squire holds memberships in the Michigan State Numismatic Society and numerous other state and local organizations. He is the founder and Charter President of the Dearborn Coin Club, and is a co-owner of the Crown Coin Company.

The ABCs of Numismatics

— by Daniel C. Parker

Part 4
Let's Show'em Off!

Now that you have made an intelligent start toward collecting, there still remain a few steps to be taken.

When a collector begins wisely, he most certainly will want to be proud of the specimens he has acquired. Pride in one's collection may take the form of "exhibiting."

To exhibit and stand a chance in competition with one's fellow collectors, it is vital that "numismatic information" be presented along with one's coins. Here, again, we must learn what we are showing. (The books we recommended in the very beginning of this series which will give much of the information needed.)

If one truly wishes to learn the "whys" and "wherefores," more information can be gleaned from periodicals and specialty articles. Nearly every series of coins minted by the United States has been researched. The information is presented for your use by the person writing the book or article.

Several rules are basic to exhibiting. People who judge exhibits are seeking to mark them fairly. To be fair, they look at the exhibit through highly critical eyes. They want to see an attractive display. Next, they look for originality in a display. The condition of the coins is taken into account. AND . . . numismatic information often settles the judge's decision between two or more equally attractive presentations.

It is the belief of this writer that nothing can be more uninteresting than a complete date set of a series. After all, if you have seen one, you've seen them all! Several qualities of an exhibit come to mind.

At a recent coin show, the writer saw an exhibit that had been put together by a young member of the local club that was indeed outstanding. It was a display of Lincoln Head Cents! The exhibitor was showing just nine coins! What made it an outstanding exhibit was the fact that it was so complete, so concise and with such complete information even for the casual viewer.

You might ask: What can be complete about a long series represented by only nine coins? Just note the listing of the coins presented:

1. The 1909 (with the designer's initials, VDB);
2. The 1909 (without the VDB);
3. The 1918 (with the initials, VDB, placed on the truncation of Lincoln's bust . . . and this fact was pointed out to the viewers);
4. The 1943 steel, zinc-coated cent;
5. The 1944 shell-case, copper cent;
6. The 1916 pre-war composition, bronze cent;
7. The 1959 (with redesigned reverse);
8. A proof of a common date;

9. A Mint-made error.

Actually, the exhibitor had included even more variety than we have listed. He pointed this out in both the title and the information included in the exhibit. I shall list some of the carefully given points that he wished to have noticed by the viewer. All of the coins, save the proof, were choice uncirculated specimens (which made the display an "eye popper.")

1. The 1943 steel cent was a choice specimen, but bearing the Denver mintmark.

2. The 1946, too, was choice, but bore the San Francisco mintmark.

3. The 1959 displayed the redesigned reverse of the coin.

4. The proof coin was of the year 1962.

5. The Mint error, about 50% off center, was a common date but did have a full date showing.

So, as you can see, he had pointed out nearly every variation of the Lincoln cent that is possible. Each coin listed the peculiarity of that particular coin. Total cost of the coins displayed was about $17. The time needed to research and type the information presented was part of the joy of the hobby. The reward: a BEST-IN-SHOW award!

We considered this exhibit worthy of the award. It was attractively presented. It had enough information so that even one who was not particularly interested in collecting would know what he was seeing. And . . . it impressed the judges. Had the exhibitor wished, he could have displayed a few more coins, but they would not have added one iota to the exhibit.

What made the exhibit so outstanding? The coins were choice. Information given was clear and concise. The arrangement was very handsome. And most of all, the exhibitor had given of himself.

With the above given information, won't you try — at your next club show — to share your joy in the hobby with someone not so fortunate?

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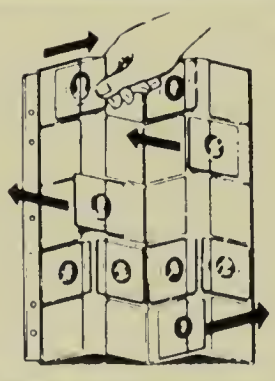

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Countermarks of the Knights of Malta

—by Clement F. Bailey

"What do you think about countermarked coins?"

"It sure beats the heck out of plain old money!"

That is just about how a pair of coin collectors would sum up the complete problem of countermarks without going into detail about the double answer.

A countermark is a sign or device which is stamped onto a coin subsequent to its issue or upon recall of an issue to further guarantee the value of the piece. Countermarks can also act to indicate changes of coin values to make a coin current in a country other than the one for which it was originally intended.

A new collector of countermarked coins will soon find that he or she is a student surrounded by confusion.

My interest in Malta countermarks started about ten years ago while following the history of the Knights of Malta. As a group they started in Jerusalem around A.D. 1050 and have been known by several names, including the Knights of Rhodes. They lost Rhodes to the Turks in the early 1500s and were presented with the Island of Malta in 1530 where they stayed until the time of Napoleon in 1798. The Knights gave up the Mediterranean fortress without firing a shot — due to intrigue.

The Knights first issued coinage near the end of their stay in Rhodes but their countermarked coins didn't occur until the middle 1600s.

On May 17, 1646, the Council decided to make it "'expedient that all copper coins current on the Island of Malta be stamped in hopes of avoiding frauds which are likely to occur.

The following day — May 18, 1646 — an edict was issued which created the double headed eagle countermark of the Grand Master John Lascaris Castellar. (See chart for countermarks, edict date, and Grand Master.)

The double headed eagle has been found in two distinct styles which would lead to the thought that maybe another Grand Master issued the same countermark either prior to or

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CSNS 1715 ANA 55193

after the known 1646 date.

It has been mentioned that an earlier Grand Master by the name of Alof De Wignacourt (1601-1622) may have used a countermark of AV on the coinage. (His nephew became Grand Master in 1690 and used the crowned Fleur-de-lis as a countermark.)

The monogram on this article may be one of the forgotten AV countermarks but it was cataloged as the MA monogram used by Emmanuel Pinto (1741-1773).

The coin that contains the countermark is of prime importance. Normally most of the coins have so many countermarks that identification of the original issue is almost impossible. If the coin can be identified as being issued at a later date than the date of the known countermarks, it would indicate that the countermark information is incorrect or that the coin was counterfeit.

Looking through the **Select Numismatic Bibliography** by Elvira Clain-Stefanelli for coinage of Malta, we find only four references.Victor Denaro, Edouard Henri, F. Pridmore and Calleja Schembri are the listed authors.

Calleja Schembri wrote the tome **Coins and Medals of the Knights of Malta.** His foremost work appeared in 1908 and was reprinted by Spink & Son in 1966. As with many reprints, the original work was not corrected nor was it brought up to date.

One valuable addition to the reprint would have been the continuation of the Grand Masters. The book stops at Grand Master 81, while in 1962 the Grand Master Angelo de Mojana di Cologna took office as the 86th Grand Master.

The Schembri reprint mentions countermarks on page 64 but new facts have been uncovered since 1908 and the list is incorrect. The book claims that Grand Master Raymond Perellos (1697-1720) used the Paschal Lamb countermark. According to later information, the Paschal Lamb is credited to Emmanuel De Rohan (1775-1797).

We asked Victor Denaro of Malta

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about this countermark. He said: "I followed Calleja Schembri on the Paschal Lamb countermark and was led astray and am now of the opinion that this mark belonged to Rohan."

The known countermarks listed in this article represent only seven of the remaining fifteen Grand Masters who ruled on the island after 1646 — the first date for countermarks. That may be an indication that other marks may surface in future years for another student of the game of countermarks.

We leave the Knights of Malta, after this brief summary of their countermarks, with a happy thought:

They must have been the first in the ecology movement, as they "helped stamp out countermarks!"

CHART

COUNTERMARK	EDICT DATE	GRAND MASTER
Double headed eagle	May 18, 1646	John Lascaris
Head of St. John	April 19, 1662	Raphael Cotoner (then his brother, Nicholas)
Crowned Fleur-de-lis	August 27, 1696	Adrian Wignacourt
Star and Crown	December 13, 1740	Raymond Despuig
Crowned Crescent	January 31, 1741	Emmanuel Pinto
Monogram MA	May 30, 1766	Emmanuel Pinto
Crowned Mascle	June 19, 1777 January 10, 1778	Emmanuel Rohan
Paschal Lamb	July 17, 1792 October 29, 1792	Emmanuel Rohan

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U.S. MAY SWITCH TO ALUMINUM CENTS IN '74

After 181 years of striking its one-cent coins of copper and copper alloys, 1793 through 1973, the U. S. may switch to aluminum cents in 1974, according to Mrs. Mary T. Brooks, Director of the U. S. Mint. The Treasury Department asked Congress on December 7 for authority to make the switch due to the sharply rising price of copper.

Mrs. Brooks contends that changing from copper to aluminum cents would save the Treasury $40 million per year. The Treasury says it could produce 500 cents from a pound of aluminum, currently selling at about 29c a pound, compared with 150 cents from a pound of copper currently priced at about $1 a pound in the dealer market.

Gum machine operators feel the lightweight aluminum cents may play havoc with their machines, but the Mint says its study indicates the impact would be minimal on vending machines. The U. S. Postal Service uses a large number of one-cent coins in automatic postage stamp dispensers.

Five major copper producers in the U. S. recently increased prices of the metal from 60 to 68 cents a pound, while a sixth producer raised its price to 67.625 cents a pound. These moves followed the Cost of Living Council's boost in the ceiling price of copper to 68c.

At the same time the Council approved a 16% increase in the price of aluminum ingots, from 25 to 29 cents a pound.

The companies which increased copper prices to 68c included Kennecott Copper Corp., Phelps Dodge Corp., Anaconda Co., Newmont Mining Corp. (Magma Copper division) and Cities Service Co. (North American Chemical and Metals division). The 67.625 cent price was set by Inspiration Consolidated Copper Co.

The 68c price allowed remains well below the U. S. dealer price of $1 per pound and the London metal market price of $1.11, the Mint says.

Copper futures prices in New York on December 7 ranged from $1.03 per pound for December delivery, through 80.8 cents for May, 1974, delivery, to 74.2 cents for January, 1975, delivery.

The present coinage law requires that the cent be made of 95% copper and 5% zinc, and that it weigh 48 grains. The draft Treasury bill would authorize the Mint to change the alloy to not less than 96% aluminum and such other metals as the Secretary of the Treasury may determine, and to prescribe the weight of the one-cent pieces composed of the aluminum alloy.

George P. Schultz, Treasury Secretary, revealed that if the price of copper rose to $1.20 per pound, the cost of the metal plus production costs would exceed the face value of the coin. Should copper rise to $1.50 a pound, the metal value of the coin would exceed its face value and hoarding of cent pieces would become profitable.

The Mint estimates that 30 billion one-cent bronze coins are currently in circulation. Hardly any zinc-coated steel cents issued only in 1943 remain in circulation.

The proposed legislation would permit the Secretary of the Treasury to select the date for change from copper to aluminum cent pieces. This could come in mid-1974 or later, according to estimates.

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If you should know of any of the persons listed below, please contact the Secretary-Treasurer, or contact them and ask that they forward their new addresses to the Secretary-Treasurer. (The addresses listed below are the last known addresses for the individuals concerned.)

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NOTE TO CLUB OFFICIALS: Interested in hosting a future CSNS convention? It's not too early to begin thinking about 1978! Just remember to submit your invitation in writing to the Secretary-Treasurer.

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